<u>Amendments to the Claims:</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

1.   (Previously presented) A method for accessing a user registry, comprising:

configuring a plurality of user registries in a given computer system to each receive instructions through a respective adapter and to each provide access to a respective system resource, wherein ones of said plurality of user registries used by different respective authentication mechanisms and wherein each said respective adapter is configured to receive instructions in a common format; and

sending a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on a given user registry of said plurality of user registries, wherein, responsive to receiving said registry-independent instruction, a respective adapter translates said instruction from said common format to a format usable with said given user registry to create a translated instruction, and forwards said translated instruction to said given user registry, wherein said translated instruction is performed at said given user registry to modify access to a respective system resource associated with said given user registry.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

4.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within said given user registry.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

6.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation includes reading data from said given user registry.

7.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation includes writing data to said given user registry.

8.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in said given registry.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

10.   (Previously presented) A method for accessing a user registry, comprising:
       configuring a first user registry to receive communications only through a first registry adapter and configuring a second user registry to receive communications only through a second registry adapter;
       sending all instructions to said first user registry and said second user registry using a common format that is not usable by said first user registry and said second user registry;
       receiving, in said first registry adapter, a registry-independent instruction designed to perform an operation on a first registry;
       translating said registry-independent instruction into a registry-dependent instruction that is usable by said first user registry and forwarding said first registry dependent instruction to said first registry where said operation is performed to modify access to a system resource associated with said first user registry.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

13.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within said first user registry.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

15.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the operation includes reading data from said first user registry.

16.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the operation includes writing data to said first user registry.

17.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in said first user registry.

18.   (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

19.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising instructions for receiving a completion status code.

20.   (Previously presented) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for accessing a user registry, comprising instructions for:
        configuring a plurality of user registries in a given computer system to each receive instructions through a respective adapter and to each provide access to a respective system resource, wherein ones of said plurality of user registries are used by different authentication mechanisms and wherein each said respective adapter is configured to receive instructions in a common format;
        sending a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on a given user registry of said plurality of user registries, wherein, responsive to receiving said registry-independent instruction, a respective adapter translates said instruction from said common format to a format usable with said given user registry to create a translated instruction, and forwards said translated instruction to said given user registry, wherein said translated instruction is performed at said given user registry to modify access to a respective system resource associated with said given user registry.

21.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

22.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

23.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within said given user registry.

24.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 21, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

25.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation includes reading data from said given user registry.

26.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation includes writing data to said given user registry.

27.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 20, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in said given registry.

28.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 27, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

29.   (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable medium for accessing a user registry, comprising instructions for:
        receiving, in a registry adapter that has been configured to receive all communications for a first user registry, a registry-independent instruction designed to perform an operation on said first user registry, wherein said registry-independent instruction is in a common format that is not usable by said first registry;
        translating said registry-independent instruction into a registry-dependent instruction and sending said registry-dependent instruction to said first user registry;
        wherein said translated instruction is performed at said first user registry to modify access to a system resource associated with said first user registry, and wherein the registry adapter is one of a plurality of adapters and the first user registry is one of a plurality of user registries used by different authentication mechanisms.

30.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the registry-independent instruction is a function call.

31.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the function call is to a function in a dynamically-linked library (DLL).

32.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the function call is to a function that takes a structured data type as an argument, wherein the structured data type represents a data object within said first user registry.

33.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 30, wherein the function call is to a method of an object class in an object-oriented programming language.

34.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation includes reading data from said first user registry.

35.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation includes writing data to said first user registry.

36.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29, wherein the operation is performed with respect to a data object in said first registry.

37.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 36, wherein the data object is one of a user object, a group object, a policy object, a resource object, a resource group object, a resource credentials object, and a list of objects.

38.   (Previously presented) The computer program product of claim 29, further comprising instructions for receiving a completion status code.

39.   (Previously presented) A data processing system, comprising:
        a bus system;
        a plurality of user registries connected to said bus system, wherein each registry of said plurality of user registries is connected to receive instructions through a respective adapter and to provide access to a respective system resource, wherein ones of said plurality of user registries are utilized by different authentication mechanisms and each said respective adapter is configured to receive instructions in a common format;
        a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit includes at least one processor;
        memory; and
        a set of instructions in the memory, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of: sending a registry-independent instruction to perform an operation on a given user registry of said plurality of registries, wherein, responsive to receiving said registry-independent instruction, a respective adapter translates said instruction from said common format to a format usable with said given user registry to create a translated instruction, and forwards said translated instruction to said given user registry, wherein said translated instruction is performed at said given user registry to modify access to a respective system resource associated with said given user registry.

40.   (Currently amended) A data processing system, comprising:

a bus system;

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit includes at least one processor;

a plurality of user registries ~~connected~~ accessed through said bus system and each configured to receive all communications through a respective registry adapter, wherein communications are sent to said respective registry adapters in a common format that is registry-independent;

memory; and

a set of instructions in the memory, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to perform the acts of:

receiving a registry-independent instruction in a first registry adapter to perform an operation on a respective first user registry of said plurality of user registries;

translating said registry-independent instruction from said common format to a format usable with said given user registry to create a registry-dependent instruction; and

sending registry-dependent instructions to perform the operation on the user registry and sending a result of the operation.